

THE
Bloomfield Record

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

S. MORRIS HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.
Office 29 Broad Street.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1896

The Bloomfield City Election
Proceedings.

A decision was rendered in the Court of Appeals at Trenton, on Wednesday, by Justice Magie, that ends the ridiculous attempt to create a city of Bloomfield including there in the Borough of Glen Ridge.

The gist of the decision is that "the proceedings to incorporate the city of Bloomfield were fundamentally wrong, because the district described in the petition included territory within the limits of the Borough of Glen Ridge."

"In my judgment" says Justice Magie, "the legislative intent was that the district, the inhabitants of which might become incorporated under this act, should not include territory within the limits of any municipal corporation higher than that of a township. 'Town' as used in the act, must be construed as including all such corporations ranging between cities and townships."

When the attempt was made under the third class city law, in June 1895, to create this city, The Record opposed it and exposed it, in the interest of the people of Bloomfield township as well as of the Borough of Glen Ridge. In an editorial article entitled "Buncoing the People," THE RECORD said:

The entire attack now made upon Glen Ridge depends upon the misinterpretation of this law by applying it to incorporated municipalities. In its first section it is clearly provided that the district is not to include "any territory already within the limits of any incorporated 'city or town.'" Glen Ridge is now an incorporated town, possessing and exercising all the rights of self-government conferred by the borough laws of New Jersey. In this State there are a few town-municipalities and many more borough-municipalities, the chief difference being that a borough has a mayor while the town has a president as its head. A borough as defined by Webster is "an incorporated town, smaller than a city."

Glen Ridge, as it stands to-day, is stronger in its legality of incorporation than Montclair as a town under the Short Law. As a borough it has withstood legal assault in the highest State Court. It therefore cannot be disturbed or invalidated, nor will it be affected by the election to be held on Bloomfield territory on the 6th of next August. Bloomfield is affected, and will be a loser pecuniarily, to the amount of the considerable cost of petitions, affidavits, lawyer fees, election expenses, etc., to be incurred without rational hope of subjugating Glen Ridge.

The people of Glen Ridge are practically a unit for their borough independence, but if every voter were in favor of incorporation with Bloomfield, it could not be accomplished by this law, which can legally be applied only to unincorporated township territory.

No lawyer was consulted, nor anybody else, nor was anything charged for the "opinion" expressed above. We got our pay in abuse for advice that if followed would have saved the taxpayers some thousands of dollars spent in worse than useless litigation.

Barabbas Turned Loose.

The following item from the Journal of Commerce of Nov. 9th corroborates statements made before the election regarding the shrewd methods of intimidation employed to defeat Mr. Bryan. Italics ours:

"The 'Iron Age' reports a sale of 8,000 tons of billets to an Eastern wire mill and the giving of several orders that were offered before the election conditioned on Mr. Bryan's defeat."

There in a single paragraph is the admission of a conspiracy against the freedom of the ballot that strikes directly at the root of the American tree of liberty.

The evidence is conclusive, and accumulating, that Mr. Bryan's defeat was due to the power of corporations exerted in such an irresistible manner as to intimidate and prejudice voters by thousands and tens of thousands.

The campaign as it was run and as it has ended, is epitomized in this vivid picture from a sermon entitled, "A Spiritual Election," a veritable masterpiece, preached in Brooklyn August 16, 1896, by President M. Woolsey Stryker of Hamilton College:

"Jerusalem sleeps this dark night; only a few waken as with lanterns, staves and brutal jestings that rabble group clatters in from the garden of olives with a prisoner in the midst. But at the Pretorium all is hurry; the elders are there to consummate the plottings hatched in their caucuses of a year past. The mob is accumulating—the rags and rascality of Jerusalem—while reputable citizenship turns its pillow and sleeps on the chilled steel, forcing Pilate, little by little, while he evades, prevaricates and tries all ways, excepting a soldier's and a man's, to avert the dilemma between injustice and unpopularity."

"Caesar or Barabbas, pagan or seditionist, anyone were better than Christ. This world despises minorities and measures strength by its majority; following, whatever terms, is but a mob. The elders and priests played upon the multitude, incited them to ratify a delusion in by an overwhelming majority and by acclamation, and Jesus was lynched."

BLOOMFIELD'S PARK.

Was the Land Purchased or
was it Given?

The above is a question that has been answered "yes" and "no" from the earliest time down to the present. It creates a good-natured difference of opinion once again in the celebration of the Old Church Centennial, the historian of the church, Dr. Knox, having made some reference to the park ground in front of the church, in correction of the idea that the church had been built upon the park. The facts that should be maintained are that school lot, church lot and the lot that eventually became the open village green, were each of them distinct, though now there are no fences or posts dividing them. The deed of the school property is dated 1782, that of the church lot 1796, and of the "parading green" 1797.

At that time and for years afterward the green was inclosed by a post and rail fence, and used as a pasture when not used for military evolutions. In

time the fencing gave way to turned posts set to mark the boundaries of each property, and the old posts were replaced by new ones that stood like sentinels all about the public ground until Dr. H. W. Ballantine came here as pastor and citizen. He was leader in the transforming movement that

gave us modern graded grounds and symmetrical walks about the church, making the park such in reality.

In regard to the purchase, or gift of the park originally, Dr. Knox, in his historical address on Sunday said that Deacon Davis gave a deed for the ground and received fifty dollars, with a list of uncollected subscriptions.

When this same subject came up in 1873, somebody hunted out the deed for the property, and the same was printed in THE RECORD of Dec.

4th in that year. This deed, which had not been recorded, if not now in possession of the town, ought to be again hunted up and deposited with the Clerk for preservation. It is entitled:

"A deed of trust from Joseph Davis to Samuel Ward, Joseph Woodruff, Nathaniel Crane and John Dodd, for the Bloomfield Parading Green."

It was signed and sealed November 27th, 1797. The consideration mentioned was two hundred dollars, and the description of the land conveyed

was as follows:

"Beginning at the northwest corner of the School-house lot on the east side of the road and from thence running along said road south nine degrees and five minutes west, twenty chains and twenty links, thence along said road south twenty-three degrees and thirty minutes east, four chains and sixty-three links, thence north eight degrees and forty minutes east, (about) twenty-two chains to the meeting house lot, thence north eighty-three degrees and forty-five minutes west, eighty-four links, to a corner of the meeting house lot, thence along the same north six degrees and thirty minutes east, to the said school house lot, thence along the same north eighty-three degrees and forty-five minutes west, one chain and thirty-five links to the beginning, containing four acres and eighty-hundredths of an acre; to them the said Samuel Ward, Joseph Woodruff, Nathaniel Crane and John Dodd, and to their heirs forever, to be by them kept and held in trust for the use and purpose of a parading green in behalf of the people of Bloomfield," etc.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. James B. Lee, of the First Presbyterian Church. The pall-bearers were life long friends of the deceased, Messrs. David W. Smith, Joseph K. Oakes, N. Harvey Dodd and John Sherman, of Bloomfield, Mark Ball, of Newark, and John Ennis of Orange.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Bloomfield Saving Institution held November 16, 1896, the following was adopted:

Whereas, in the death of our friend and co-worker Mr. Horace Dodd, this institution has met with a loss which it will deeply feel,

Whereas, we recall with pleasure the cordiality and kind-hearted simplicity of his manner and the honesty of his character which endeared him to us all,

Resolved, that while we bow submissively to the wisdom of our Heavenly Father, we deplore the death of our beloved and respected fellow member, and we desire to express to the family our sincere sympathy in their great bereavement.

Resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon our minutes and be published in the Bloomfield "Citizen" and "RECORD." Also that a copy be furnished to the family.

JOSEPH H. DODD,
Secretary.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Essex County Mutual Insurance Company held November 19, 1896, the following was adopted:

Whereas, God in his providence has called from our midst Mr. Horace Dodd, Vice President of the Company, an active and efficient officer, and

Whereas, Mr. Dodd has served for over thirty-seven consecutive years as a Director of the Company, being the only survivor of fifteen Directors who were elected in the year 1859.

Resolved, that while we bow to the will of the Supreme Ruler, we mourn the loss of one whose genial, cheerful presence won our hearts and whose wise counsels commanded our deep respect, and we desire to extend to the family our sincere sympathy in their hour of bereavement.

Resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon our minutes and published in the local papers. Also that a copy be furnished to the family.

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